Director of Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL), for revision of pay scales of employees within three months; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government of India (GOI) has, in the meanwhile, dis-invested 74% of its equity held in Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL). Hence any decision on the proposal for revision of pay scales of its employees will now be taken by the new management.

Assam Gas Cracker Project

188. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the conditionalities yet to be complied with for Assam Gas Cracker Project and action taken to sort out the matter;

(b) the target date set for final decision;

(c) whether promoter has been asked to go ahead with the reduced amount of gas on account of failure of the Oil Companies to fulfill the gas supply agreement.

(d) if so, the response thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (e) The Assam Gas Cracker Project is being implemented by Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Limited (RAPL), a joint venture of Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL). The acquisition of land and availability of feestock for the project are yet to be finalized. Site at Lapetkata has been identified by the State Government for setting up the project and they do not envisage any problem in that regard. As regards feedstock, a gas supply agreement between RAPL and Oil India was signed on October 19, 2000. Another gas supply agreement between RAPL and ONGC is in the final

stages of negotiation. On completion of the formalities regarding the feestock supply agreements and acquisition of land, the project authorities expect the project to be commissioned in 44 months.

Sale of drugs at higher rates by Johnson and Johnson

†189. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case of causing loss to common consumer and Government to the tune of almost Rs.fifty crore has been registered by the CBI in January, 2002 agaist Johnson and Johnson, a famous pharmaceutical company, for selling drugs on higher rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by Government against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) No such case has been registered by CBI during January, 2002. However, it is a fact that CBI has registered a Regular Case RC-07/2001-SIU.XI on 24.12.2001 under Section 120-B IPC read with Section 420, IPC read with Section 7&10 of Essential Commodities Act and substantive offences thereunder against M/s N.R. Jet Enterprises Limited, Mahim, Mumbai through its Directors, M/s Johnson & Johnson Limited, Mumbai through its Directors & others on the allegation of causing loss to common consumer and Government to the tune of almost Rs.50 crores for selling drugs on higher rates.

Revival and Expansion of Fertilizer Units

190. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government with regard to revival of sick fertilizer units and expansion of the existing units;

(b) the steps taken in that direction during Ninth Five Year Plan and the programme drawn up thereon for Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any effort is being made to achieve self-sufficiencey in fertilizer;

(d) if so, the achievement made in that regard in Ninth Five Year Plan; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.